

THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Meeting No. 2, 2007

Meeting No. 2, 2007 of the University Research Committee will be held on

Thursday 3 May 2007

at 9.30 am in the

Ross Hohnen Room of the Chancelry

Apologies:
Ext.54080

J A Bruce
Secretary to the Committee

AGENDA SUMMARY

PART 1: GENERAL ITEMS

- 1. Minutes**
- 2. Matters Arising**
- 3. Announcements and Apologies**

PART 2: REPORTS AND POLICY ITEMS

- 4. Report from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor**
- 5. Research Quality Framework (RQF)**
- 6. Research Integrity**
- 7. Externally Funded Contracts**
- 8. Research School of Business**
- 9. Higher Degree Research Training Review**
- 10. Equipment**
- 11. Funding Opportunities**
- 12. Reports from ANU Colleges**

PART 3: ITEMS OF OTHER BUSINESS

- 13. Other Business and Question Time**

Procedural Matters for Members to note:**OPERATING PROCEDURES**

The operating procedures of the University Research Committee (paper 174a/2007) at http://info.anu.edu.au/OVC/Committees/060PP_Research/_urcmtg1_2007/174aurcfuncsmar07.pdf

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Consistent with the policy and practice of Council, all matters in the agenda of the University Research Committee relating to individual persons, including appointments, enrolment, candidacy for degrees, personal details, performance and conduct are declared to be confidential. If any member wishes to raise a confidential matter in relation to any other item, he or she should do so under Item 3. After consideration of the confidential items, observers will be admitted to the meeting.

DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY OR MATERIAL PERSONAL INTEREST

Sections 27F to section 27H of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* <http://scaleplus.law.gov.au/html/pasteact/2/3067/top.htm> impose a duty to disclose any material personal interest in a matter which relates to the affairs of the University. This disclosure must give details of the nature and extent of the interest, the relation of the interest to the affairs of the University, and be given at a meeting as soon as practicable after the person becomes aware of the interest. The nature and extent of the interest must be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. Unless the meeting determines otherwise, a person who has a material personal interest in a matter must not be present while the matter is being considered at the meeting, and must not vote on the matter.

USE OF INSIDE INFORMATION OR POSITION

Under sections 24 and 25 of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*, a member of the University Research Committee must not make improper use of his or her position or of inside information to gain an advantage for himself or herself or to cause detriment to the University or to another person.

jab/23 April 2007

PART 1: GENERAL ITEMS

ITEM 1. MINUTES

The unconfirmed minutes of Meeting No. 1, 2007 of the University Research Committee (184/2007 attached) held on 8 March 2007 have been circulated (published at http://info.anu.edu.au/OVC/Committees/060PP_Research/meetings.asp)

For confirmation

ITEM 2. MATTERS ARISING

ITEM 3. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND APOLOGIES

3.1 Apologies

To be received

3.2 Announcements

For noting

3.3 Confidential Items

Confidential Items will be dealt with in this part of the agenda.

For consideration

PART 2: REPORTS AND POLICY MATTERS

ITEM 4. REPORT FROM THE DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR

PURPOSE

For the Deputy Vice-Chancellor to report on matters of interest to the Committee.

BACKGROUND

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor will report on current issues:

- Biosciences Review
Attachment: Draft Terms of Reference for the Review ([297/2007](#))
- Chemistry Review
Attachment: Draft Terms of Reference for the Review ([298/2007](#))
Note: the terms of reference for the Reviews have been circulated for comment.
- Commercialisation Training Scheme (CTS): Award program
- Academic Expertise and Public Debate:
The University's statement may be viewed at:
<http://info.anu.edu.au/Policies/Documents/PDF/Governance/academicfreedom.pdf>
- Addresses on ANU publications
- NCRIS Update
- NHMRC Data
Attachments:
 - . Applications for [NHMRC](#) Projects from Go8 Institutes
 - . ANU Applications by ANU College
- Centres policy

SPONSOR: Deputy Vice-Chancellor

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee note the report from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor.

ITEM 5. RESEARCH QUALITY FRAMEWORK (RQF)

PURPOSE

For discussion and to receive a progress report on ANU RQF processes.

BACKGROUND

- Panel Chairs
- ANU Panel Chairs
- ANU Panel members
- ANU RQF processes

Regular newsletters from the RQF Team have commenced with a view to providing up-to-date information to contacts in the lead-up to implementation. The March and April 2007 Newsletters have been published at:

http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/research_sector/policies_issues_reviews/key_issues/research_quality_framework/rqf_newsletters.htm

SPONSOR: Deputy Vice-Chancellor

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee note the report and any matters arising in discussion.

ITEM 6. RESEARCH INTEGRITY

PURPOSE

For the Committee to:

- (i) note changes to the Human Research Ethics system and processes; and
- (ii) note the revised terms of reference of the ANU ethics committees.

BACKGROUND

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor will speak to the items:

- New Human Research Ethics System to be introduced from mid-year 2007
- ANU Ethics Committees
Comments received on the draft statements received at the March meeting of the University Research Committee and subsequently circulated to ANU Colleges have been taken into account in the revisions to the documents.

Attachments:

- ANU Human Research Ethics Committee ([176a/2007](#))
The HREC statement will require minor amendments to the composition of the sub-committees with the introduction of the new system.
- Recombinant DNA Monitoring Committee (Institutional Biosafety Committee) ([175a/2007](#))

SPONSOR: Deputy Vice-Chancellor

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee:

- (i) note the new Human Research Ethics system; and
- (ii) endorse the statements of the terms of reference of the ANU HREC and rDNA Monitoring Committee.

ITEM 7. EXTERNALLY FUNDED CONTRACTS

PURPOSE

For discussion of the policy relating to agreements which compromise academic freedom and the integrity or reputation of the ANU.

BACKGROUND

The relevant extract from the policy, *Externally-funded Grants, Consultancies and Contracts*, (at <http://info.anu.edu.au/policies/browse.asp?view=title>) reads:

“2.2.1 Agreements which compromise Academic Freedom and the integrity or reputation of the ANU

The ANU recognises that bodies providing funding for research and/or education programs are entitled to specify the fields and scope of the programs, and to monitor their quality and timeliness. However, the ANU will not accept funding either:

- * where the funder requires a dominant position in the appointment of relevant staff; or
- * where the funder has any right to interfere in, or alter, or prevent publication of, the outcome generated by the ANU's researchers and teachers in delivering the funded program. The ANU does recognise that commercial or other considerations might sometimes require delays in publication.”

A request for advice has been received on the latest change to the University's policy on externally funded contracts. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor will provide further interpretation of the policy and its application.

SPONSOR: Deputy Vice-Chancellor

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee note the advice from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and matters raised in discussion.

ITEM 8. RESEARCH SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

PURPOSE

To consider a recommendation to explore the establishment a Research School of Business.

BACKGROUND

The ANU College of Business and Economics has recommended that a working party be formed to develop a detailed proposal during the year for the establishment of a Research School of Business from late 2008.

Attachment:

- ANU CBE Development of a Proposal for a Research School of Business ([294/2007](#))

SPONSOR: Dean, ANU College of Business and Economics

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee provide advice to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor.

ITEM 9. HIGHER DEGREE RESEARCH TRAINING REVIEW

PURPOSE

To receive a report on the progress of the Reference Group and working parties.

BACKGROUND

Attachment:

- Terms of Reference and Membership of the Higher Degree Research Training Review Reference Group and Working Parties ([190a/2007](#))

SPONSOR: Professor Thomas, Pro Vice-Chancellor

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee note the report from Professor Thomas.

ITEM 10. EQUIPMENT

PURPOSE

To receive a report on equipment related matters.

BACKGROUND

- 10.1 Infrastructure Policy: update on progress with the development of an ANU infrastructure access policy
- 10.2 NH&MRC Equipment Fund: distribution of funds
- 10.3 Major Equipment Subcommittee, Mass Spectrometer/Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Subcommittee, and Microscopy Subcommittee: review of terms of reference, membership and function of the subcommittees

SPONSOR: Deputy Vice-Chancellor

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee note and advise the Deputy Vice-Chancellor about equipment issues.

ITEM 11. FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

PURPOSE

To receive an update on funding opportunities.

BACKGROUND

- ARC Centres of Excellence - Additional \$67 million for high-performing research centres
- ARC Internationally Coordinated Initiatives (ICIs) – Call for proposals for social sciences
- ARC scheme calendar available: schedule of key dates (http://www.arc.gov.au/media/important_dates.htm) for researchers planning to apply for Australian Research Council (ARC) funding for projects commencing in 2008.

SPONSOR: Deputy Vice-Chancellor

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee note the update about funding opportunities.

ITEM 12. REPORTS FROM ANU COLLEGES

PURPOSE

To receive reports from the Chairs of ANU College research committees and for members to raise any research issues.

BACKGROUND

The Chairs of ANU College Research Committees, or their representatives, are invited to report on current research activities and to raise any issues for discussion.

SPONSOR: Deputy Vice-Chancellor

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee note the reports and matters raised in discussion.

PART 3. ITEMS OF OTHER BUSINESS

ITEM 13. OTHER BUSINESS AND QUESTION TIME

PURPOSE

For Committee members to ask questions and raise items of other business.

BACKGROUND

SPONSOR: Deputy Vice-Chancellor

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee note the matters raised and the responses.